SPRING 2023

Rocket Report

ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS
DISTRICT NEWSLETTER









Congratulations Class of 2023







OUR MISSION

In partnership with our communities and families, Rockford Area Schools provides challenging opportunities to engage, inspire, and educate globally-minded citizens.



Message From Superintendent
Rhonda Dean

Greetings Rockford Community,

Rockford Area Schools is committed to providing an exceptional educational experience for all students. Our schools offer a unique magnet experience, with a focus on the Arts in grades K-4, Environmental Studies in grades 5-8, and International Baccalaureate (IB) Studies in grades 9-12. The IB program also includes an increased emphasis on skilled trades, offering pathways in certified nursing assistant training, vet tech, landscape design, as well as other trades.

This summer, we will be upgrading our facilities to meet the growing needs of our community. Our ongoing facility improvement schedule is a reflection of our commitment to serving our students and community.

In addition to our facility improvements, Hennepin County, in coordination with the cities of Rockford and Greenfield, is planning on enhancing safety and accessibility on Rebecca Park Trail (County Road 50) between Kola Street and Dogwood Street (County Road 92). The project will focus on providing safer and easier access for pedestrians, bikers, and rollers, while also reducing traffic congestion around Rockford Area Schools and Community Center.



Find more details at https://www.hennepin.us/residents/transportation/rebecca-park-trail

As our community continues to grow, Rockford Area Schools remains committed to meeting the needs of our students and community. We are excited about the future and look forward to continuing to serve this community with excellence.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, "**the best kept secret in the west metro**" - Rockford Area Schools.

Respectfully,
Rhonda Dean

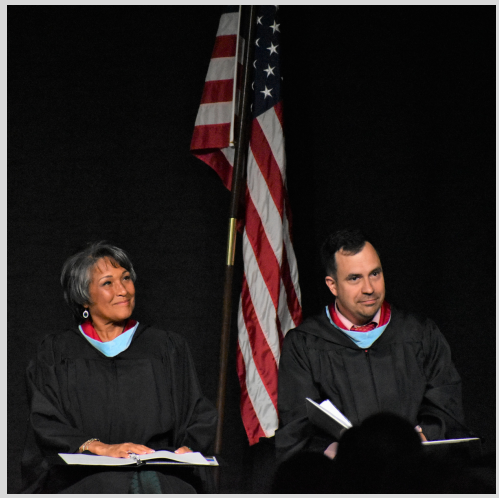
discover
Graduation

Rockford High School Celebrates 106th Commencement

Rockford High School held their graduation ceremony on June 2, 2023, to celebrate the exceptional achievements of the 106th graduating class. Jerald Ferdig, RAS Band Director, and the Rockford High School Band welcomed the graduates as they processed, followed by inspiring speeches from the senior class president, Amelia Ehlers, and Valedictorians, Elizabeth Sylvester, and Ina Xhelilaj. The graduates were also addressed by Rockford High School English teacher, Julie Merila, who emphasized the importance of kindness and self-compassion and encouraged perseverance and embracing failures as a way to find your true potential. The Rockford High School choir performed a beautiful rendition of "Hey Jude" under the guidance of Meghan Larson. Congratulations to the Rockford High School class of 2023!







What is the IB Diploma?

The International Baccalaureate Diploma prepares students for university entrance by following the IB programme over the final two years of high school. For context, Rockford High School stands as ⅓ of 1% of high schools in the country to offer the program. This involves taking six academic subjects (two languages, a mathematics, a humanities, an experimental science, and a sixth subject representing the arts or an additional course from the previously mentioned five subject areas). They must earn a minimum IB grade in all courses to be considered for the IB Diploma. The final IB mark for the diploma is scored on a 1-7 scale.

In addition to the six courses discussed above, all IB students have to follow a course in Theory of Knowledge (an epistemology course which questions the basis of knowledge), write a 4000 word Extended Essay (on a subject of the student's own choosing) of college level standard, and take part in over 150 hours of non-academic activity covering creativity, physical action (e.g. sports), and service to the community. Rockford High School has the pleasure of announcing our first International Baccalaureate Full Diploma candidates that are graduating this year. Claire Czech, Amelia Ehlers, Grace Evans, Sophia Hanson, Maggie Johnson, Claire Shaikoski, Kevin Shipley and Ina Xhelilaj.



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Graduation





Sara Abbott
Iowa State University
Computer Science



Katelyn Alholinna
N. Henn. Comm. Col.
Nursing



Alex Altmann
University of Minnesota
Marketing / baseball



David-Joseph Anderson
N. Henn. Comm. Col.
General Studies



Deilys Anderson Rodriguez
St. Cloud Tech.
Cosmetology



Patrick Andry
Augsburg
Exercise Science



Valeria Arroyo
Alex. Tec. & Comm.
Coll. - Early Child. Ed.



Martin Bacon
Lake Superior College
Business



Dominic Barkeim
Training to work in
auto industry



David Bills
U of MN Duluth
Management



Nicholas Binnebose
Grand View University
Political Science



Elise Biorn
Univ. of St. Thomas
Marketing



Breann Blanchard
U of WI Eau Claire
Nursing



Isabella Boone
Work



Justin Broberg
Gap Year



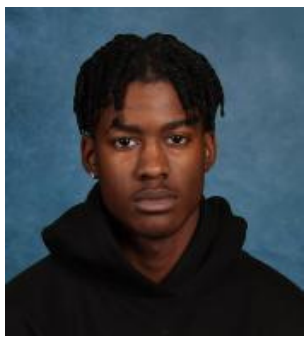
Tanner Broen
Henn. Tech. Comm. Col.
Autobody



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RHS



Allie Campbell
Palm Beach Atl. Univ.
Undecided



Dorien Cistrunk
Work



Jaxon Clemenson
Anoka Ramsey
Environmental Science



Lauren Condon
Univ. of Northern IA
Undecided



Devon Conrad-Stark
Undecided



Isabelle Cox
Univ. of Northern IA
Undecided



Claire Czech
Mn. St. Univ. Mankato
Premed. Lab. Sci.



Joshua Dejewski
Work
Firefighter



Kylee Diemert
Anoka Ramsey
History



Sophia Dovorany
U of WI La Crosse
Health Sci. - OT or PT



Ethan Egbert
Trade School
Electrician



Amelia Ehlers
Univ. of St. Thomas
Entrepreneurship



Kaitlyn Eilderts
University of Kansas
Exercise Science



Grace Evans
Iowa State University
Climate Science



Isabella Feulner
N. Henn. Comm. Col.
Psychology



Jaedence Fischer
Undecided



Meadow Freshour
Louisiana State Univ.
Entrepreneurship



Jacob Fuglie
Work



Kyle Grimm
N. Henn. Comm. Col.
Undecided



Troy Halonen
Work

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RHS



Connor Hanson
St. Cloud State Univ.
Accounting



Sophia Hanson
U of MN Twin Cities
Forest & Nat. Res. Mgmt



Joseph Harkess
Saint John's Univ.
Physics



Audrey Heidgerken
Work & Travel



Stacy Hernandez
Normandale Comm. Col.
Dental Hygienist



Adam Hoekstra
North Dakota St. Un.
Computer Science



Julia Houghton
Iowa State Univ.
Biology



Daniela Ibarra Bucio
Univ. of St. Thomas
Criminal Justice



Ethan Jensen
N. Henn. Comm. Col.
Generals



Blake Johnson
Univ. of St. Thomas
Business



Margaret Johnson
Trinity University
International Relations



Kate Kariniemi
Univ. of St. Thomas
What



Madeline Keesling
St. Cloud State Univ.
Criminal Justice



Zachary Kneeland
Work & Travel



Nathaniel Knutson
Work



Calla Koshiol
CO School of Mines
Mechanical Engineering



Nadia Kubes
St. Cloud State Univ.
Nursing



Shauna Lark
Lake Superior College
Nursing



Margaret Leipholtz
Atelier Academy of
Beauty



Katherine Lemmage
Univ. of CO Boulder
Media Production/
Journalism

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Semaj Lewandowski
Work



Dayne Lowe
AZ State Univ.
Business Law



Angel Lucas-Chavez
NHCC or Normandale
Computer Science



Joseph Luckett
Trade School
Electrician



Dylan Maciey
Trade School
HVAC



Saisana Maomanyvanh
Undecided



Jersey Marth
Alexandria Tech
Behavioral Health&
Human Services



Nehemias Martinez Balboa
Alexandria Tech
Fashion



Amberlynn McMillen
Work



Brayden Michlitsch
N. Henn. Comm. Col.
Business Management



Marissa Miller
Univ. of St. Thomas
Biology



Michael Miller
Work



Benjamin Nelson
Trade School
Electrician



Zachary Nelson
Gap Year



Cameron Nute
Normandale Comm.
Business Management



Mireille Olivar
Univ. of St. Thomas
Business Administration



Wes Overton
Augustana University
Undecided



Jose Perez Green
Alexandria Tech
Undecided



Luke Pilot
St. Mary's Univ. of MN
Environmental Biology



Malia Riordan
Mankato St. Univ.
Construction Mgmt.

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Bowen Robrahn
Anoka Ramsey Col.
General Studies



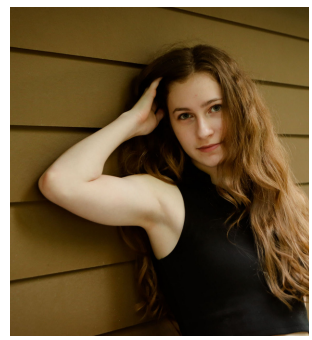
Emily Rund
Hamline University
Psychology



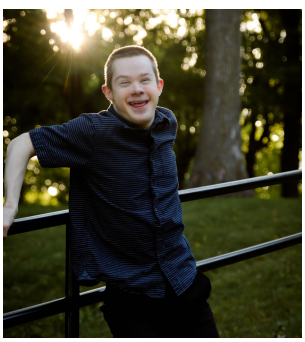
Denim Rynkievich
Univ. of WI River Falls
Elementary Education



Anna Sarkinen
St. Cloud State Univ.
Elementary Education



Jessica Savage
St. Cloud State Univ.
Cyber Security



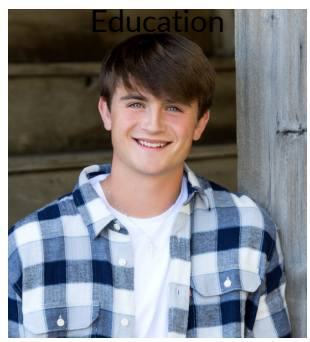
Joseph Savage
Training to enter the workforce



Ethan Scarbrough
U of MN Twin Cities
Undecided



Isabel Schaumburg
Liberty Online University
Elementary Education



Tristin Scripture
Rochester Tech.
Athletic Training



Claire Shaikoski
U of MN Twin Cities
Global Health



Kevin Shipley
U of MN Twin Cities
Mechanical Eng.



David Silva Tapia
Univ. of St. Thomas
Business Administration



Carly Simonson
U of MN Twin Cities
Business



Sophia Sisk
Univ. of N. Dakota
Biology



Henry Skinner
Univ. of St. Thomas
Marketing



Taylor Storz
Alexandria Tech
Law Enforcement



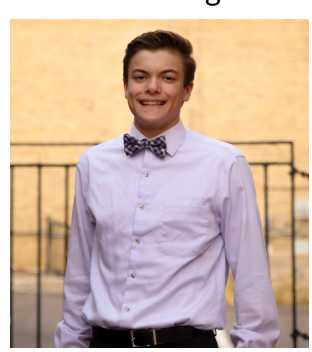
Maya Strandberg
Work



Tyler Stuckmayaer
Work



Elizabeth Sylvester
MN St. Univ. Mankato
Marketing



Cole Tauber
U of MN Twin Cities
Data Science

discover RHS



Jay Trandahl
Lake Superior Collage
Economics & Business



Mariela Ventura Bucio
Undecided
Nursing



Breanna Vicino
Univ. of Manitoba
Architecture



Shellie Virnig
St. Cloud Tech.
Sonography



Angelina Vue
N. Henn. Comm. Col.
Psychology



Lauren Wagner
Full Sail Univ.
Music & Sound Prod.



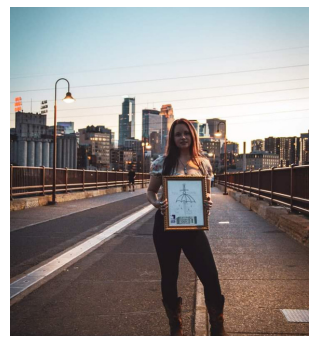
Cortney Waldorf
Univ. of Kansas
Human Biology



Eve Ward
Anoka-Ram. Comm.C.
Nursing



Nickolas Weddig
Alexandria Tech.
Palentology



Lainey Wichern
Work



Sienna Wille
U of WI Eau Claire
Nursing



Ina Xhelolaj
U of MN Twin Cities
Medical Lab. Sciences



Olivia Yager
Lake Superior College
X-Ray Technician



Rosa van Hek
Returning to Holland
Year 13



Apolline Lesaffre
Returning to France
2 Years of HS



REAMS
ROCKFORD ELEMENTARY ARTS MAGNET SCHOOL

Revisiting REAMS

For many who have lived in this community for several years, there has always been an awareness of Rockford Area Schools as a source of pride. This issue of the Rocket Report reflects on this, allowing us the opportunity to pull back the layers of what an Arts Infused Curriculum looks like at our very own Rockford Elementary Arts and Magnet School. (REAMS)



The dedicated and creative staff at REAMS, under the leadership of Brenda Nyhus, Principal, and Darren Eliason, Arts Magnet Coordinator, is continually striving to instill a sense of wonder into our students as they collaborate with each other, our music specialists, visual arts specialist, and our Artists in Residence.

Deep learning occurs via the process of doing, and at REAMS, we have a focused theme and aligned curriculum within each grade level. We are typically more "hands on – minds on" and use an approach to learning that is inquiry or performance/project based.

Follow along as we guide you on a tour of our K-4 learners and you will be able to see the depth and breadth of the subject matter as it is reinforced through many different modes of instruction.





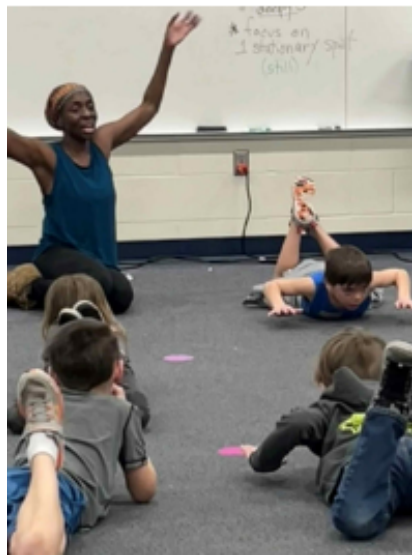


Kindergarten

One of our talented Artists in Residence, Ms. Roxane, was able to guide kindergarten students through movement as they began to learn about the different stages of the life cycle of a plant. Students explored and created still shapes, movements, and locomotor movements to reinforce what they were learning. Kindergarteners were allowed to use their creative minds by bending, twisting, and shaking different parts of their bodies, and even experimented with low, medium, and high positions. The students were learning kinesthetically by showing the stages of the plant: seed, sprout, plant, and bloom. The reinforcement of the science component is developed by our enthusiastic teachers through stories, art projects and actually planting seeds. The many ways our students are able to learn serves to instill a curiosity in our youngest learners. There were lots of smiles and a whole lot of learning!

First Grade

Our First graders learned about animal life cycles, again reinforced in the classroom, through visual art projects, movement, and music. Another one of our amazing artists in residence, Ms. Karla, helped create excitement about the life cycle of a frog. Students learned the basic principles of body, action, space, time, and energy (BASTE). The students began as eggs, hatched into tadpoles, grew their back legs, then front legs, moved to the froglet stage and finally became adult frogs. Students were squirming, bending, hopping, and strengthening their understanding through movement.





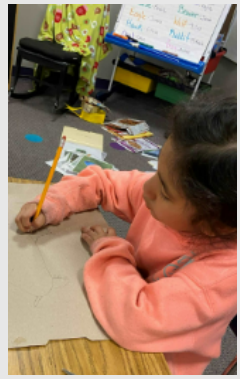


discover REAMS

Second Grade

Native American themes allowed learning in history, Minnesota American Indian culture, visual art, theater, and literacy for our Second Graders. Each classroom read a different Native American story, and after spending time with our Anishinaabe Artist in Residence and arts educator, Ms. Julie, students were able to choose an animal character to make into a paper mache puppet. The culmination of their learning through the arts was presented in four plays during our Grandparent's Day celebration in May that allowed students to bring their masks and puppets to life through performance.







Third Grade

Third grade students had the opportunity to work toward their Minnesota reading and American Indian social study standards. Our teachers read three different books, each one showing how the Ojibwe and Dakota value nature and tradition. After comparing and contrasting each story, third graders learned three new watercolor techniques and used their art to describe an important part of each of the three stories. In one painting they used a crayon resist technique to paint the Minnesota state flower, the lady slipper. For a different story they showed the northern lights using a wet on wet technique, and finally they did a scratch technique that added texture to the background of a tepee. As an assessment, students each wrote a reflection on their process or described their art. It was a great way to infuse art into learning.

Fourth Grade

In Fourth Grade, students practiced singing, world drumming, stick pounding, dancing, piano playing, and playing recorder for a concert they presented in March. The concert was a culmination of many learning experiences in music class and connections to social studies standards of the 50 states and different regions of the USA. Students sang songs from each region of the country and enjoyed sharing their talents and new knowledge through movement, different instruments and percussion.





learn.explore.create.imagine
REAMS
ROCKFORD ELEMENTARY ARTS MAGNET SCHOOL

At Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet Elementary, we see ourselves as a family. We focus on respecting others, being responsible for ourselves, and creating excitement for learning by infusing the arts that will last a lifetime.

Our teachers and staff have a passion for their students and are leading students to succeed academically, socially and emotionally. We believe that our unity, dedication, and strong academics will prepare every student for middle school and beyond.

RMS-CES

ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL - CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

RMS-CES Spelling Bee Winner

For the 2nd consecutive year, 7th Grader, Imani Gladney reigns as Rockford Middle School's District Spelling Bee champion!

Next Stop... the Regional Spelling Bee!

The room was quiet, the tension was mounting, not even a buzz of the bee was heard. Rockford's annual district Spelling Bee was in progress. On Tuesday, January 10th, 34 5th through 8th grade students displayed their spelling abilities in the district-level spelldown. After a suspenseful 6 rounds going head to head with fellow 7th grader, Grace Oluwafemi, Imani Gladney secured a win in the 18th round, reigning as our 2023 RMS-CES Spelling Bee champion! Imani's winning word was "elude," meaning "to avoid slyly or to evade." Our 2nd place contestant, Grace Oluwafemi, ended with the word "illimitable." Our 3rd place contestant, Kaia Seevers (8th Grade), ended with the word "marauding" in the 12th round. Congratulations Imani! Miss Gladney will go on to represent Rockford Area Schools at the Regional Spelling Bee on February 7 in Sartell, MN. Congratulations to all of Rockford's qualifying Spelling Bee participants!







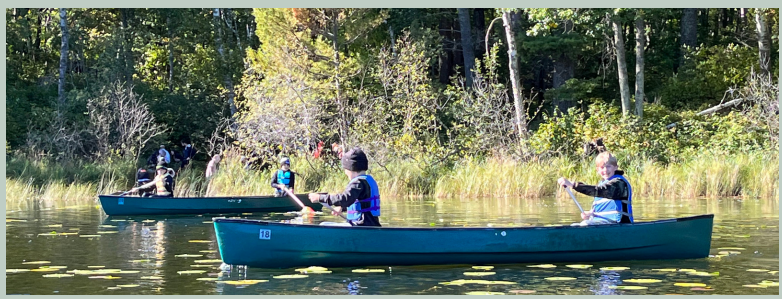
Deep Portage

The Spirit of Deep Portage rings true for another group of RMS-CES 6th graders during the annual trip to Deep Portage Learning Center in Hackensack, MN. Students spent two nights and three days on the campus involved in many activities: challenging themselves on the 35 foot rock wall, using a dichotomous key to identify native Minnesota trees, honing their compass skills in the woods, and searching for macroinvertebrates in Bass Pond.



At Deep Portage, students are asked to set goals and challenge themselves to overcome obstacles to achieve their goals. This year's 5th graders are excited about joining the tradition and have already started fundraising for next year's trip. For more information about Deep Portage, visit their website at http://deep-portage.org/. It's a tradition that lives on at RMS-CES!

From the morning wake up song, homemade bread with every meal, to stories around the campfire, RMS-CES has built a tradition that has been in place since 1996. Over the years, approximately 2,500 students, parents, and staff have explored Minnesota's largest outdoor classroom. According to RMS-CES STEM coordinator Jamie Madson, "The trip provides an ideal foundation for the environmental STEM program at RMS-CES. We are able to build off the activities at Deep Portage as the students explore the Raptor Center, Baker Near Wilderness Settlement, and our DNR Certified Rockford Middle School Forest on campus."



discover
RMS-CES

RMS-CES SHOWCASE

The 2023 RMS-CES Showcase gave students, parents, families, and community members the chance to interact with our school and community groups. People had the opportunity to view student work, listen to music, see live raptors, support a small business endeavor, and celebrate the STEM experience in our building.





This year's event featured a variety of school partners and community groups in our school gymnasium, including the robotics team, the Rockford Public Library, the Stork House, the Rocket Boosters, the Rockford mountain bike team, and Three Rivers Park District. Participants enjoyed music from our jazz band and choirs in grades 5-8, engineering games hosted by 5th grade students, and the opportunity to make succulent plantings in our school greenhouse. There were also many items to purchase that had been created by EXCEL students, including coloring books, stickers, jewelry, and night lights.

Families had the chance to see live raptor demonstrations and view the grape-ology projects created in 7th grade science. They had the opportunity to participate in voyageur games with Three Rivers Park System with naturalist Chad Hollinbeck. A highlight of the evening was creating plantings in the school greenhouse! The succulents will continue to grow and be reminders of a great evening long after the event was complete.





The 2023 Showcase was a great success, and it was fantastic to see so many parents and students enjoying activities, viewing projects, connecting with our school and community partners, and taking pride in our school.

ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL **Center for Environmental Studies**

RMS-CES Honor Choir Students

This year, two sixth grade students and one eighth grade student were selected for the Minnesota Choral Directors Association honor choirs. Drew Toso and Savannah Fenrich performed with other 4th-6th graders from all over the state on April 29th. Natalie Lockwood performed with other 7th and 8th graders on May 6th. Each student prepared and memorized five choir songs and performed for an audience of hundreds. Congrats to these students on their talent and hard work!



discover
RHS

Letter from Principal Menard

It was an exciting and successful school year at Rockford High School! This year we had many points of pride to celebrate, including:



- Our inaugural IB Diploma Program graduates
- The creation of three IB Career Program pathways, bringing our total to four career clusters within which students will be prepared to excel through external partnerships and/or professional certifications at the same right out of high school
- Growth in our Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum to support student well-being
- Development of two student groups emphasizing collaboration in leadership, culture, and school safety while increasing opportunities for genuine student leadership and engagement
- Increased elective offerings for student choice and real-world preparation
- Installment and implementation of cutting edge educational technology in all classrooms, ensuring a relevant, interactive experience for all students
- And many more wonderful achievements!

Thank you for your support of Rockford High School. We are so fortunate to have continued community engagement, assistance, and involvement!

Sincerely,
Paul Menard
Rockford High School Principal



Band

The month of March was a busy one for the Rockford High School band program. On Wednesday, March 8, Rockford hosted Large Group Band Contests. All total, 10 bands from 9 different school districts participated. Rockford had 2 bands participate in this event, both receiving a rating of "Excellent". On Tuesday, March 21, the high school band program performed its annual Winter Concert. All 3 high school ensembles performed (pictured: The Rockford High School Wind Ensemble). On Saturday, March 25, 3 members of the jazz program participated in the Central Minnesota Band Directors Association Honor Jazz Band held at Pierz-Healy High School. Kevin Shipley on trombone, Claire Shaikoski on trumpet, and Sophia Grimm on piano (pictured) all participated in the grade 11-12 ensemble. In addition, Thomas Barrows on trombone and Justin Ziemiecki were also selected (not pictured). Finally, on Sunday, March 26, junior flutists Elizabeth Smith and Auryn Rayller (pictured) performed in a flute choir held at St. Barnabas Lutheran Church.

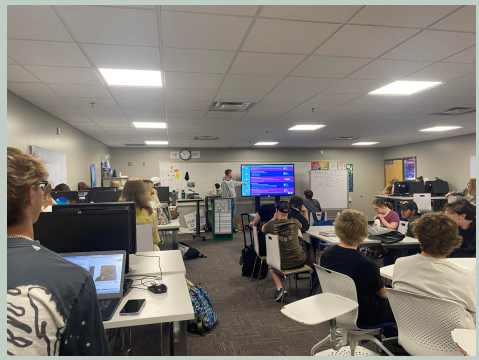
Robotics Wins Regionals 2023

The Rockford Robotics team competed at the Minnesota North Star Regional Competition in LaCrosse, Wisconsin (March 23-26). During the playoffs their team went undefeated into the finals. Their team won the first match and lost the second due to a penalty, they then made a slight strategy change for the final match and won by 14 points! This was the first time since 2015 a Rockford Robotics team made the playoffs at a regional competition, and the first time they have won Regionals ever. Additionally this got them a ticket to World Championship April 19-23rd. Way to go team!!



RHS
ROCKFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Career Pathways - Business



The business pathway is the first official CP pathway offered by RHS. We are wrapping up our 1st year for junior students in this pathway. The focus of this pathway ensures students complete the following requirements:

- CP Core Classes
- Language Portfolio
- Reflective Project
- Service Learning

Much of this work is completed in class. Students can complete the language portfolio by taking advanced Spanish classes, complete the reflective project in our core classes, and find service learning opportunities from our staff.



Career Pathways - Veterinary Assistant CP

There is a significant shortage of veterinary professionals. The purpose of the Veterinary Assistant Career Pathway is to show students the different opportunities within the veterinary and animal sciences field. Students complete a series of three courses including Companion Animal Science, Veterinary Science and the University of Minnesota's College in the Schools (CIS) Animal Science. Students also complete an internship at a veterinary clinic to apply what they learn in the classroom setting to the real-world through our agricultural education department's work-based learning program. After completing the courses and internship hours, students are then eligible to take the Texas A&M Veterinary Assistant Certification Exam to be utilized at a veterinary clinic or as a great addition to a resume before pursuing a career as a veterinarian.

Career Pathways - CNA

Rockford High School welcomes a new IB Career Pathway Program for the 2023-2024 school year! RHS has been approved to offer a Certified Nursing Assistant program for students to obtain their CNA certification while still in high school. Students will have access to state of the art medical equipment for their instruction, clinicals, and testing requirements, and will work with area facilities to gain on-the-job exposure. Upon passing the state exam, students will have immediate opportunities to work as a CNA, and will have laid the groundwork for pursuing further avenues in the field of nursing.





Career Pathways - Landscape Design

With the increased demand for skilled labor in the landscaping field, we will be offering a Career Pathway in the area of Landscape Design and Construction! Students pursuing this pathway will take both the Landscape Design and Construction course, gaining specific skills and techniques with planning, installing and maintaining landscapes around our community, along with our Agribusiness course, gaining business management and human resources skills that will be helpful in owning a landscape business or finding a job within the field. Both courses will emphasize experiential learning (learning by doing) and have plenty of time at the greenhouse! Students completing the courses are then eligible to take an industry-recognized landscaping certification exam that they can use to help them find a job within landscaping or horticulture, or even start a business of their own.

Rockets

discover ACTIVITIES

It's been a great year of memorable performances on the stage, track, courts, and fields! Enjoy looking back at the 2022-23 highlights from this year.






Academics, Arts and Athletics Award: Julia Houghton and Cole Tauber
Athena Award: Elise Biorn
Male Athlete of the Year Award: Henry Skinner

Band: Had a strong year with strong enrollment and high musical quality. A total of six students in grades 9-12 performed at All-State Bands this year with three students already qualifying for next year. Rockford had 24 entries at Solo/Ensemble Contests with 18 receiving a rating of "Superior". Rockford also had four entries receive "Best in Site" out of a possible five. Our jazz band received a perfect score at contests with a 40/40.

DECA: Continued raising the bar year after year. Our membership reached 71 members in total; 41 members made it to state with 16 qualifying in multiple events. Six students advanced to International competition in Orlando, FL - Claire Shaikoski, Maggie Johnson, Anna Feyen, Khloe Hunter, Elise Dieter, and Gwen Keller. We competed in several chapter projects for the first year, had two gold-certified school-based enterprises, and found many ways to strengthen ties to our local business community through sponsorships and fundraising activities.

Choir: The choir program had ten entries for Solo/Ensemble Contests with five receiving the rating of "Superior". This year was a great building year as it was grades 9-12, all in the same choir.

FFA: Great success at the MN FFA Convention! We had 47 hard-working and responsible students who represented our chapters and community with pride and responsibility; the most members our district has sent to the state. Two teams advanced to the national convention - Agricultural Communications and Marketing Plan! We had a state-winning proficiency award, state-winning agriscience fair entries and three MN FFA Degree recipients! Out of nearly 200 chapters statewide, our very own Rockford FFA chapters "swept" the Premier Chapter Award - which recognizes only the top 3 FFA chapters in the state, based on an annual program of activities consisting of service work, leadership development, career readiness and much more. This is the first time in Rockford FFA history that they have ever been represented in the top 3 - including for both the middle and high school level.





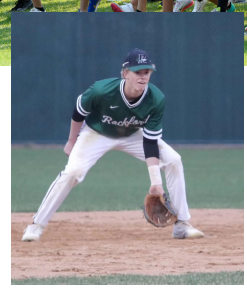


Dance: The team had a great year with two new coaches. Competed in their final competition of the season in February with their best performance yet. The team is very excited for next season after welcoming 15 new dancers after the Spring tryout! Honorable mentions to graduating seniors, Lauren Condon and Emily Rund!

Cross Country: Girls Gold Status (Section Team GPA 3.962); Boys Silver Status (Section Team GPA 3.742). Boys tied for best conference finish since rejoining WCC-West in 2015 and had three Honorable Mentions. Girls placed third at conference and had one All-Conference and two Honorable Mentions. Ruby Gifford finished second at the Section 6AA meet and qualified for state for the third season in a row. Fall 2022 marked the eighth consecutive year Rockford has had at least one athlete qualify for the State Meet.

Baseball: The team has had a very successful year. We won the conference championship for the first time since 1999 and are looking to have a very successful playoff run.

Boys Tennis: Found a lot of success in the matches that slipped in between the rain. The team won every match and were off to a good start in our tournament before the rain came down. They had a lot of fun as a team in practice, finding ways to be ruthless and keeping the intensity up in any of our practice drills / games.


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Musical: "The Wizard of Oz" drew over 100 actors in grades 5-12, another 20 in the pit orchestra, and ten more backstage. Auditions were delightful—like a reverse clown car—they just kept coming into the choir room, one wave after another. For about half of the cast, this was their first experience with theater and they did a remarkable job learning and listening. Each of our three shows was sold-out or nearly so. A magical year for RAS Theater!

Girls Tennis: Over the past three years the team has grown in number and skill. We had 18 girls on the team last fall and a full match schedule with many doubles wins and close matches. We ended the season with a parent-player tournament and had a great turnout despite the cold weather.



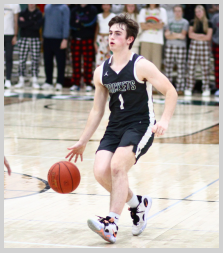


Girls Lacrosse (co-op w/Delano): The Rockford/Delano co-op team had a great start to the season. The program has seen great growth; this year was our highest of incoming new players. It has been a very fast paced fun season and we're excited to see where the team heads in the future.









Gymnastics: Have come a long way and there is no stopping it. This season was tough due to injuries with many key varsity athletes. Blessed with a new assistant coach who was just what our team needed. One athlete was recognized for the WCC and our team took second for the academic gold award.



Football: Won back-to-back district titles for the first time in school history. Wes Overton, Alex Altmann, Patrick Andry and Harrison Brun were each named Player of the Year at their respective positions.

Girls Soccer: What a fun season for the Girls Soccer program from tryouts to competing in the section tournament! There was definitely some adventure in exploring new drills, skills, and game formations with a focus on technical skills and growth. We graduated nine seniors in 2022-23, all of whom will be missed. We also have a young program with an exciting future ahead!

Boys Soccer: After graduating 13 seniors the previous season, the team welcomed a new group of players into the program. The focus was on developing technical skills and learning new positions. A highlight of the season was a hard-fought and well-earned draw against a talented Delano team. This is a young team that will continue to grow and compete together over the next few seasons.





Volleyball: A fun season competing in a very competitive WCC-West conference and lost in the Section 5AA semi-finals to top ranked Annandale. This was the farthest the Rockets had advanced in playoffs in a number of years. Meghan Roggenkamp was named All-Conference and Kennedy Torborg earned Honorable Mention. The team earned the Silver Academic Award and Ina Xhelilaj earned the All-State Academic Award.



Cheerleading: Rockford Cheer had a fun year cheering on Football and Basketball (Girls & Boys). We brought back some much needed spirit to the team with crash posters and a youth cheer camp. We also have our first Division 1 cheerleader committing to St. Cloud State University.

Girls Basketball: Had a fun and competitive season playing in a tough and competitive WCC-West Conference losing to the eventual state champions Providence Academy in a 5AA Quarterfinal game. Julia Houghton was named All-Conference and Kaitlyn Eilderts, Rayna Johnson earned Honorable Mention.

Boys Basketball: After having kids gain some experience and returning some kids from injuries, the boys team had a fantastic second half of the year on the way to a 17-win season. In playoffs, the boys upset a very good Hiawatha Academy team and had highly ranked Mpls North in a tight game before getting knocked out of playoffs. The team was also named the Section 5AA Academic Champion for the fourth year in a row!

Girls Hockey: First year with a new coach. Girls bought in immediately, and due to some key injuries finished at 12-12-1. Lost a hard fought section game to a top 5 ranked Mound/Southwest Christian team.

discover ACTIVITIES

Robotics: Won Regionals in La Crosse, WI; this was the first time in ten years that the team won Regionals. Winning Regionals allowed the team to compete at WORLDS in Houston, TX.



Boys Hockey: The Delano-Rockford Tigers played their most challenging schedule yet and finished the regular season with a record of 13-12. The Section 2A tournament ended with a loss to Orono in the final after defeating Litchfield/Dassel-Cokato and Waconia in the first two rounds.

Wrestling: Since rebuilding the program, this was the first year to have two wrestlers place at Sections. We did not have a full line up, but were competitive in many meets. Wrestlers placed at several individual tournaments at the Varsity level. Strong team coming up next year.



Speech: A successful season with many students placing in their respective events at invitational tournaments and the Wright County Conference. Special congratulations to Claire Shaikoski and her fellow senior, Bella Feulner.

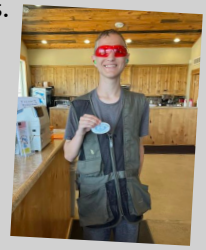


Girls Golf: A successful season as many new players joined and started learning this lifelong sport. There was a lot of camaraderie as we fought through a tough spring weatherwise. Sarah Buchholtz earned her first top finish in a couple conference meets and looks to make the All Conference team. Many golfers improved their skills and the future looks bright as we continue to build the program.

Boys Golf: Finished 4th in the WCC-West. Junior Phil Gorder was named all-conference and Senior Ethan Egbert was named honorable mention. Gorder finished tied for third at the 70 golfer Bulldog Invite. Other key contributors to this great season were Senior Blake Johnson, Senior Cameron Nute, Sophomore Braden Blanchard and 8th grader Benton Blanchard. The Rockets expect to do well at sections and with the team goal to make the state meet.

Trap Shooting: At this time, the team is in a tight contest with Rushford-Peterson for 3rd place in our conference. Individually we have one shooter ranked at 32nd in the state and five shooters in the top 25 in conference. Our annual head to head tournament with Delano is scheduled for May 23rd where we hope to win back the traveling trophy. We head to Alexandria for the large statewide tournament June 16th which will determine our status for the State Championships and Nationals.



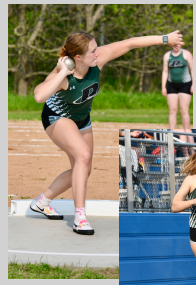


Boys Lacrosse (co-op w/Delano): The Rockford/Delano team has been going through a rebuilding year. After graduating 13 seniors last year, we have seven upperclassmen and an influx of 12 new high school lacrosse players. Our team is young, however, gaining experience with every game. We are 5-5 currently with 3 more winnable games on our schedule. The team has progressed nicely over the season. Look out for our team in 2024 as the majority of our starters return and fight for the WCC title once again.

Softball: Wrapped up our third consecutive Conference Championship (Covid stopped us from making it four). We are playing well together and hope to make a push to go deep into the playoffs.













Boys Track & Field: Boys won the Conference Championship and also took 3rd in a field of seven larger schools at the True Team Section Championship. Currently, junior Brian Schloeder has the #1 pole vault height in the state and looks strong to defend his state champion title. Brian has also set the new school record in the pole vault, 100m, long jump and is a key member of the boys 4x100 relay who set another school record this season. Junior Josiah Zilmer has had success in the shot and discus breaking a 36-year-old school discus record with a throw of 154'6". As the team heads into Sections, they look to be strong contenders for a Section title and a team podium appearance at the state meet.

Girls Track & Field: Last year, the girls team graduated a lot of seniors who dominated the sport for the past five years. But this girls team has stepped up with a strong 2nd place finish at the Conference Championships. The team is led by senior Elise Biorn (sprints, TJ/LJ/HJ) and a strong pole vault team of seniors Dayne Lowe, Isabelle Cox and sophomore Alexandria Schloeder. We have talented middle school athletes with potential to regain the top position in the years to come. Eighth grader Riley Freed tied the high jump varsity school record at 5'2". Boys and girls middle school teams won Conference Championships proving they are here to compete.

discover
COMMUNITY EDUCATION

2023-24 Launching Pad Preschool Registration

Launching Pad Preschool is accepting registrations for the upcoming 2023-24 school year.

- Children 3 to 5 years old by September 1, 2023
- Half and full day options 2, 3 and 5 days a week
- An outstanding and unique public preschool experience
- Rich in opportunities to discover, explore and create
- Reggio-Emilia Inspired philosophy
- Creative Curriculum
- MN licensed teachers
- Located at Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School
- Tuition assistance available to qualifying families

The entire program is designed to be engaging and fun so children don't just learn, they love to learn!

On-line registration and more information are available at www.rockford.ce.eleyo.com. You may also visit our website at: www.rockford.k12.mn.us. Under the Community tab, click Early Childhood Programs. For more information, please call 763-477-7500.

Early Childhood Screening

Identifying possible concerns early is the best way to prevent serious problems later in young children. State law requires all children to participate in Early Childhood Health & Development Screening before they may enter public kindergarten. The ideal time to screen children is at age 3 to 4. Early Childhood Screening also provides an opportunity for parents to discuss questions and concerns, and find out about resources in the school and community.

The Screening Process includes a health history, height and weight, immunization review, follow-up with parents and screening in the following areas:

1. Hearing & vision
2. Speech & development
3. Cognitive, fine & gross motor skills
4. Social-emotional development

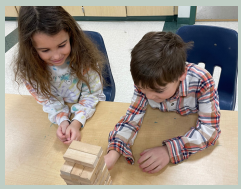


Make your appointment by calling763-477-7500
Appointments are needed and letters are sent to families with age-eligible children. If you have a child in this age group and do not receive a letter, please call the Early Childhood Programs office at 763-477-7500.

Galaxy Kids

Galaxy Kids held their annual January non-school days for families within the program that needed care on January 16th and 23rd. Students were able to participate in many fun filled activities throughout each day that were tied to the Snow/Winter Theme. They also were able to enjoy the weather and go outside and play on the playgrounds/outdoor spaces around the school. These exciting activities included:

- Sledding
- Hot cocoa and marshmallows
- Elephant Toothpaste and games
- Playing in the snow
- Building snowmen and forts



Galaxy Kids also held our annual Spring Break non-school days on March 24th-March 31st for families within the program that needed care during the week. Activities were centered around Spring and hopefully enjoying warmer weather.

Our Summer Program guaranteed registration closed on May 15th. If you did not register and still need child care, registrations will be accepted based on enrollment and staffing. The 2023-2024 Galaxy School Year Program registration opened April 1st. Families have until July 31st to guarantee their spot for next School Year. Any registrations after this deadline are approved based on space and staffing.

Galaxy Kids is a certified before and after school child care program for preschool-6th grade students offered through Rockford Area Schools Community Education. We are conveniently located in Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School right across the hall from ECFE and the Preschool classrooms. We are open Monday-Friday from 6:00am-6:00pm, to assist with family child care needs. We have many different registration options that are sure to accommodate most families' busy schedules. If you are looking for child care, before, during, or after school, then this may be the program for you.

For more information, please call 763-477-7555 or email hallahanc@rockford.k12.mn.us.

Independent School District 883
ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS
6051 Ash Street
Rockford, MN 55373

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